

GLADSTONE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 14, 2023

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Milch at 6:33 P.M. – (Via Zoom and In Person)

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Michael Milch, Councilor Alexander, Councilor Garlington, Councilor Huckaby, Councilor Reichle (via Zoom), Councilor Roberts

ABSENT:

None

STAFF:

Jacque Betz, City Administrator; John Schmerber, Police Chief; Chad Jacobs, City Attorney; Heather Austin, Senior Planner; Tami Bannick, City Recorder;

Mayor Milch called the meeting to order. He acknowledged the Clackamas, Chinook, and Kalapuya native peoples on whose ancestral homelands they gather tonight, recognized and affirmed their accomplishments as the native stewards of these lands, as well as the diverse and vibrant native communities who make their home here today. He said that without a full representation of everyone's experience we will never be able to design and develop a better future. He explained that the City is abiding by guidelines set forth in House Bill 2560, which requires that they make all meetings accessible remotely, through technologic means and provide the opportunity for the public to participate to the best of their ability. This meeting will be open to the public, both in person and virtually, using the Zoom platform. The Council members and staff will be in person, as well as those citizens who wish to attend in person. He went over the procedures that will be followed for the meeting and the meeting agenda.

AGENDA ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of February 14, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of January Bank Balances
3. Budget Report for Period ending 1-31-2023
4. Approval of January Check Register
5. Legal Costs on Projects – January 2023
6. Department Head Monthly Reports for February 2023

Councilor Huckaby asked to pull item #1. She said at the beginning of the meetings now the Mayor gives an acknowledgment and last month there was a Black History month acknowledgement – those were not included in the minutes last month. She feels these are important to the community members, so she would like them added. Mayor Milch agreed and asked the Council if they would be open to having that kind of statement to amend the minutes – they agreed.

Councilor Garlington said there was a report from the Police Department that contained an error – she asked if that was theirs to correct or not. Ms. Betz suggested pulling it from the Consent Agenda first to discuss it. Councilor Garlington recommended pulling the Police Department's monthly report from the Consent Agenda – she said the "Iowa thing" contained typos (page 6-9) (Chief Schmerber confirmed that it was a cut and paste).

Councilor Garlington made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilor Huckaby. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Garlington – yes. Councilor

Roberts – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Huckaby – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Jacobs pointed out that since two items were pulled from the Consent Agenda, each of those items needs to be voted on separately.

Councilor Huckaby made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2023 meeting as amended. Motion was seconded by Councilor Alexander. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Huckaby – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Roberts – yes. Councilor Garlington – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Councilor Roberts made a motion to approve the Department Head Monthly Reports for February 2023 as amended. Motion was seconded by Councilor Alexander. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Roberts – yes. Councilor Garlington – yes. Councilor Huckaby – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

7. REPORT FROM CLACKAMAS FIRE DISTRICT #1:

Captain Craig Bowen said Engine 322 ran 117 calls for service in the Gladstone area. There were over 100 calls in the neighboring areas. They are planning an open house for the end of May.

Councilor Garlington said that three weeks ago her family had an unfortunate experience at a restaurant in Oak Grove – a male subject was assisted by Clackamas Fire. They were also able to calm her nerves, help her husband, and they are all okay. She thanked them for being there.

Captain Bowen thanked the Council for writing a letter to the Sandy Fire Board expressing their pleasure with the agreement with Clackamas Fire to date. Mayor Milch thanked City staff for preparing the letter.

REGULAR AGENDA

8. PUBLIC HEARING: FILE TXT-2022-02 – ORDINANCE 1517 – APPROVING TEXT AMENDMENTS TO GLADSTONE MUNICIPAL CODE (GMC) TITLE 17 AND ADDING THE NEW DOWNTOWN OVERLAY DISTRICT:

Mayor Milch opened the public hearing. He said the proposed amendments include updates to Chapter 17.08, Zoning Districts Generally, and 17.18, the C-2 Zoning District, and a new Chapter 17.21, Downtown Core Overlay District. He went over the procedures that will be followed and the rules for testimony.

He asked if any of the Councilors are abstaining from this matter or if they needed to declare any conflicts of interest. There were none.

Ms. Betz thanked the Planning Commission for their efforts over the last year and a half. She introduced Heather Austin, from 3J Consulting, Jon Pheanis and Keegan Gulick from MIG, and John Southgate, consultant.

Ms. Austin went over the staff reports that are included in the packet.

Mr. Pheanis and Mr. Gulick from MIG gave a presentation. The purpose of the project/amendments were to implement specific recommendations for land use, design standards, and other considerations for downtown, meet ever growing housing needs in Gladstone by providing more opportunities and housing choices, to comply with a variety of statewide rules that apply, and the opportunity to involve the community and decision makers in understanding potential changes. They went over some background/history of the project. There were recommendations to create a downtown overlay zone that could require more specific standards/design requirements for this smaller core area, reduction of off-street parking requirements, permitting different housing types, prohibiting new single-family detached housing, maintain existing height limit, and clarifying/strengthening design standards. They went over the objectives of the Climate Friendly Equitable Communities Rule Making that took place in July of 2022. They went over some more specific rules that came out at the end of 2022. They went over some of the proposed amendments (a table that includes the current standard, recommendations, proposed amendments) (included in the packet). They went over a map of the downtown district and proposed changes and recommendations from the Downtown Plan. They recommend requiring non-residential uses on the ground floor. They also recommend allowing food carts as a permitted use outright. The proposed amendments recommend retaining the maximum 35-foot height for buildings, but allowing for the extra fourth floor up to 50 feet if the ground floor height is at least 15 feet. They also recommend reducing the distance between the sidewalk/street/building front, reducing landscaping requirements along Portland Avenue, and eliminating parking minimums per the State rules. Mr. Southgate went over recommendations for amendments relating to food cart pods (page 8-46 in the packet).

PUBLIC TESTIMONY:

Craig Lewelling said he has an investment property in Gladstone (south side of Arlington Street). He would like to expand the dotted red line so his property would be included in the overlay zone. This would allow them to have mixed used, continue to have the residence above with a business below, and possibly food carts/restaurant.

Councilor Huckaby asked what would happen to the automobile service station businesses (page 8-39, section 17.18.040, #1). Mr. Jacobs said this will not effect pre-existing businesses. Mayor Milch pointed out that this is similar to single-family homes – pre-existing homes would be allowed to stay, but future development has to comply with the new rules.

Councilor Reichle asked if a business owner were to sell their business to a new owner, would they be grandfathered in. Ms. Austin said they would have one year to be able to continue the use. Councilor Alexander asked about the process to expand the overlay district. Mr. Southgate said the risks are pretty minimal. He feels the traffic impact would be nominal at nearby intersections.

Councilor Garlington asked how they came up with the overlay district boundaries. Mr. Southgate said it is based on the Downtown Revitalization Plan of 2017. He views this as a first step. He hopes it is expanded eventually based on property owner interest. Councilor Garlington said the proposed expansion is not small. She said you can't make a change to someone's property without letting them know. Ms. Betz pointed out that the City has notified all the property owners multiple times, and this is actually reducing the restrictions of what they can do on their property, which would increase in value. Mr. Southgate said that one option would be to have the overlay zone take in that one property belonging to Mr. Lewelling. Councilor Garlington said in her opinion a four-story building would take our skyline away – it would hover over the city, and they'd start looking like Sellwood.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY:

Kelley Chaney said she loves food carts, but they notoriously attract a massive amount of rats. She said they have a rodent problem in Gladstone already.

Bob Everett asked if an existing business is sold, is the new owner required to change and move to the new codes. Ms. Austin referenced Chapter 17.76 (Exceptions) – it does state that if a non-conforming use is discontinued for a period of one year, further use on the property shall conform to the title, so that does apply to any uses. It does not have to be the same type of business.

Mayor Milch asked how difficult it would be if they wanted to expand the overlay zone in the future. Ms. Austin said they would go through the same process, where they initiate that amendment, send notice to DLCD, and then conduct a hearing with the Planning Commission, who then makes a recommendation, and the City Council makes a decision. She said they do plan to have a conversation with the Council in April regarding the upcoming Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities provisions/rules. One of the rules is to designate a town center for Gladstone.

Councilor Huckaby made a motion to close the public hearing. Motion was seconded by Councilor Alexander. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Huckaby – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Roberts – yes. Councilor Garlington – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The public hearing was closed.

Discussion:

Councilor Garlington doesn't understand why we would put a mobile vending unit on any parcel in the downtown corridor and yet we're asking people to build these beautiful buildings. Mr. Southgate said for a downtown to really come to life it often takes baby steps – it starts by attracting people there, whether it's a food cart pod or other outdoor activities. He used downtown Milwaukie as an example. Mayor Milch said the proposed site for the food carts is to the west of Arlington/Portland Avenue. Mr. Southgate said the idea is to take the existing building that faces Arlington and maybe put in a brew pub and putting food carts on the existing paved area between that building and the street. Councilor Garlington said they aren't talking about just that one spot. Councilor Alexander said they are making these amendments so that the business owners can have access to do this or to bring in developers to do this. The whole idea is to get people to come and bring money or invest their money in beautifying Portland Avenue. Mr. Southgate agreed. Councilor Garlington said in the pictures it only shows three-story buildings, but in the language it sneaks in the fourth story. She said a lot of people were opposed to four stories. She feels it closes off the sky. She can't support four stories – she doesn't think it's for Gladstone. Councilor Alexander "sort of" agrees with that – he asked if they can do all this, but only three stories and not four.

Mayor Milch said on page 8-53 there is an email from Terry Marsh but was not able to attend the meeting. Ms. Bannick reported that Mr. Marsh was now available to testify.

Councilor Huckaby made a motion to reopen the public hearing. Motion was seconded by Councilor Alexander. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Huckaby – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Roberts – yes. Councilor Garlington – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Mayor Milch reopened the public hearing.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY:

Terry Marsh said he is a proponent of the overlay zone and the changes in the code. He has concerns. His family owns the property at 220 Portland Avenue – the corner of Arlington/Portland Avenue. They have attempted to develop it in the past, but it was not a good cost benefit analysis, nor was it a good exercise – most of it had to do with issues surrounding parking. He said now they have the opportunity to look at developing the entire 10,000 square foot lot. He expressed his concerns in his email. He suggested they consider letting the market drive what the height of the first floor should be because it amounts to a significant increase in what the costs are of those structures going to a 15-foot ceiling. He said in section 17.21.07 2b it says that the upper floor window orientation must be vertical or have a width that is no greater than the width of the ground floor windows. He said it doesn't necessarily make sense to have this alignment of the windows. The more flexibility the City can provide, particularly considering the economy, the status of a lot of retailers, etc., they need to look at a broader breadth of retail types of uses.

Councilor Garlington would like to hear from the Planning Commission regarding windows. Mr. Marsh said they didn't get an adequate opportunity to deliberate on the issues he brought up because he was late in bringing them forward. Mr. Pheanis pointed out that there is no set of design guidelines for new construction in downtown, so there isn't an ability for the City to have a say in what buildings look like, any discretionary type of guidelines to say this proposal doesn't look great, etc. The impetus for the standards is to provide some certainty into the architecture/development that the City intends to see. Everything in the overlay district comes out of the Downtown Plan because there was a lot of community involvement and analysis into what was envisioned for the core area. The provision for those upper floor windows comes in play to give the City some certainty that upper story development has some windows that are provided, there's some symmetry, and some connection in relation to the ground floor. He said the C-2 zoning district currently allows for potentially a four-story building (if it has sprinklers). He said there are some refinements with the zoning code amendments tonight – one is to keep the maximum height in the C-2 zoning district to 35 feet and to incentivize an active ground floor design in the overlay district. Typically that means taller, higher quality ground floor construction. Councilor Alexander asked if anyone has considered underground parking. The answer was that it is very expensive.

Councilor Huckaby made a motion to close the public hearing again. Motion was seconded by Councilor Alexander. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Huckaby – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Roberts – yes. Councilor Garlington – no. Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed (5-1).

Mayor Milch closed the public hearing.

Discussion:

Mayor Milch said he measured the ceiling heights of a number of commercial buildings on Portland Avenue – the highest ceiling he found was 13 feet (Library). A number of stores have 8-foot ceilings. He would be more inclined to reduce the 15-foot incentive to 12-foot. He asked what the average height per floor of a typical building in this type of district is – Mr. Pheanis said the average would be 10-12 feet. Mayor Milch said the costs of everything involved now makes them look at this issue a little differently than they did in 2017, when they made the original recommendations. He leans toward understanding the changes that the Planning Commission and consultants have recommended regarding greater flexibility, slightly higher height limitations, because he thinks we want development to happen. Otherwise we have rules for something that never gets built because no one can make a profit from it.

Councilor Reichle asked why a 15-foot ceiling would allow for a higher building. Mr. Pheanis said it's an incentive – so if an applicant would like a taller building, then there's something that the applicant would have to provide. Councilor Reichle asked what the benefit to the City would be for having 15-foot ceilings. Mr. Pheanis wasn't involved in the Downtown Plan, but he thinks the City was aiming high and looking for something that had a higher standard. Mayor Milch said he was more concerned about a 15-foot ground floor looking out of place in the context of what we have now than he was about taller buildings looking out of place.

Councilor Garlington asked about Mr. Pheanis's presentation – she said they could go back to planned recommendation rather than the proposed amendment. She suggested taking the 17.18.060.3 and leave it at the planned recommendation and remove the food carts until they have more time to discuss rules and regulations pertaining to food carts.

Councilor Huckaby said she is fine with just amending the 15 to 12. She is happy with four floors if that's what a builder wants to do. She is fine with food carts.

Councilor Garlington wanted to clarify the extended area on the map – the people who live on the south side of Arlington have all been notified that we could possibly be adding them to this. Ms. Betz said no. Mr. Southgate recommended only including Mr. Lewelling's property if they wanted to extend the overlay zone because we have their permission to do so. Councilor Garlington doesn't like that and thinks they should treat that as a group of properties all the same. There was further discussion regarding what properties could be included in the overlay zone, notification, etc.

Councilor Reichle made a motion to amend Section 17.21.070, subsection 1, paragraph B, on page 8-47, the reference to 15 feet in the second line be changed to 12 feet. Motion was seconded by Councilor Garlington. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Garlington – yes. Councilor Roberts – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Huckaby – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Councilor Garlington made a motion to change the verbiage in 17.21.070, B to "four stories not to exceed 40 feet".

There was further discussion regarding the motion. Mayor Milch asked for a consensus regarding keeping the recommendation of four floors – the majority of Councilors wanted four. There was further discussion regarding building height, variances, rooftop decks, setbacks, etc.

Councilor Garlington made a motion to amend the height limitation in 17.21.070, paragraph B from a maximum height of 50 feet to 44 feet. There was no second so the motion will not be considered.

Councilor Alexander made a motion to amend the height limitation in 17.21.070, paragraph B from a maximum height of 50 feet to 45 feet. Motion was seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Discussion: Councilor Roberts asked to clarify that staff can approve 10% and anything beyond that has to go before the Planning Commission. Ms. Austin said the circumstances for granting an adjustment allows 20% per 17.73.020, so the adjustments are up to 20% rather than 10% in the current code.

Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Huckaby – no. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Roberts – yes. Councilor Garlington – yes. Mayor Milch – no. Motion passed (4-2).

Councilor Huckaby made a motion to approve the proposed text amendments to the Gladstone Municipal Code (GMC) Chapters 17.08 and 17.78 and addition of new Chapter 17.21, Downtown Core Overlay District with additional amendments. Motion was seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Discussion: Councilor Garlington asked about the two properties that were identified on the map that are not in the downtown corridor. If the City be moving forward with changing the Nature Park out of the C-2 zone and the property on the back side. Mayor Milch said the C-2 zoning changes would effect all C-2 properties, however, there has been discussion regarding changing the zoning of the Nature Park to an open space zone. These changes are unlikely to have any impact on what happens at the Nature Park or the YMC childcare facility. Councilor Roberts asked for clarification regarding the Lewelling matter. Mayor Milch said they discussed it and there was a concern regarding notification, but no action was taken. It doesn't prevent them from examining it more thoroughly and involving the community engagement and making a change in the future.

Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Garlington – yes. Councilor Roberts – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Huckaby – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

9. 2022 CITY OF GLADSTONE ANNUAL REPORT:

Ms. Betz said at the City Council goal setting session they went through the state of the City and highlighted projects and achievements from 2022. The report is included in the packet and will go out in the utility bills in April. Councilors Garlington and Reichle thanked Ms. Betz and staff for all their hard work.

10. CONDUCT INTERVIEW WITH CANDIDATE FOR VACANT CITY COUNCIL POSITION #4:

Mayor Milch said they advertised the vacancy and gave people the opportunity to apply. They had four applicants originally and two of the four withdrew their applications. They had one additional applicant, Cierra Cook, whom they will interview tonight. They will not be making a decision tonight. Their intention is to make the appointment at the beginning of their March 28th work session. The interview will be done the same way they did previously.

The Councilors interviewed Cierra Cook.

Mayor Milch asked what role city officials play in mobilizing civic involvement and encouraging citizens to voice their concerns, vote in local elections, and volunteer in their community. Ms. Cook said the Council goal of communication and engagement was a well identified goal because community involvement is essential to a thriving and effective city government. She thinks the role of an elected/appointed official would be to disseminate information to identify the stakeholders in any decision, listen to that feedback, and when appropriate, action on that feedback. She thinks there's an opportunity in Gladstone to be more active with that. She has already seen progress, particularly with social media. She said an example of that would be when the Meldrum Bar Park fees were instituted.

Councilor Huckaby asked what Ms. Cook has done to educate herself on the issues facing the City of Gladstone and how she has prepared herself to assume the duties of a City Councilor. Ms.

Cook said she has experience serving on the Budget and Audit Committees, which she has been a part of since 2021, and also attending City Council meetings. She feels like she has a fair background of the issues facing the City and what has come up in the City in the last few years. If appointed she would re-watch the City Council work session regarding utilities, as well as the ethics volunteer orientation to re-learn that information as well. She would also reach out to Ms. Betz for additional information.

Councilor Alexander asked which boards/committees/commissions she would be interested in becoming a liaison for. Ms. Cook said she would be happy to support any of them, but in the nine-month period she would be serving she isn't sure what kind of relationships she could build in that short time, so she feels it would make the most sense to contribute in an area where she's already most familiar, such as audit or budget.

Mayor Milch asked her to explain what she believes makes Gladstone special or unique in a positive way and how she would propose to preserve, protect, and enhance those qualities. Ms. Cook said Gladstone is a small enough community where you have to work with people who are different than you. We are all one community. She said if you are in Gladstone there is a community that is there to support you and uplift whatever project you're doing. The support of small businesses is amazing. She likes the small community feel. She would support with one of the Council goals of communication and engagement. She has experience as a store manager of a large grocery store and one way you lead a large group of people is by frequent transparent communication where you actually take their feedback into account. She created a website called HappyRockFamilies.com because she wanted to promote Gladstone to the greater Portland area – that Gladstone is a wonderful place to live, specifically as a parent of young children. Councilor Roberts asked how she would strengthen the City's working relationship with the County, the State, Metro, and other taxed districts on multi-jurisdictional issues (affordable housing, transportation, social services, and the economy). Ms. Cook said it wasn't realistic to be able to build relationships/provide results in such a short period of time, but she can divide and conquer if there are areas of the City's business that is limited to Gladstone - that is where she could most positively contribute. If she decides to run in November her answer would be that everything is based on relationship and open and honest communication. She said at times Gladstone has had an adversarial relationship with some of its partners within the regional government and she thinks there's an opportunity to intentionally change the tone and hopefully change the outcome.

Councilor Garlington asked how she would deal with competing requests/demands from various groups for City resources, such as budget and staff time. Ms. Cook said whenever you have greater demand than you have supply for you have to prioritize and you have to intentionally prioritize or someone's going to do it for you. She said they did a great job in coming up with the Council goals for 2023-2025 of economic development, infrastructure, parks, communication and engagement. Whenever the Council is faced with determining where resources go to they should go in service to those goals. She feels the most pressing goal is infrastructure because it directly relates to our ability to stay solvent, and the DEQ violations are something that should be prioritized within that set of priorities/goals.

Ms. Cook said she thought the questions were awesome, the application was very thorough, and she feels like she has presented the information that she wanted to present. She explained that she would have applied the first time if there hadn't been a candidate that she thought had more experience than she does. She is pleased, impressed, and excited about the future with the Council and thanked them for the work they are doing. She believes there is a bright and exciting future for the City of Gladstone.

BUSINESS CARRIED FORWARD:

None.

BUSINESS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Gerry Blakney wanted to thank the City Council and staff for getting rid of the old rule where citizens had to sign up at noon the day of meetings in order to speak. He said that making it easier for constituents to speak to the Council is really important. He urged them to consider moving Business From The Audience to the beginning of meetings because long meetings are difficult for some people to sit through. He said that he and Councilor Alexander had a discussion regarding volunteerism in this community. Since he lives just outside the City limits he won't be volunteering for any Gladstone committees, boards, or commissions, but they discussed possibly opening up some commissions and boards to outside people who nearby Gladstone in order to tap into a different base.

He feels they have done a good job in moving the Council forward from where it was.

Mayor Milch said that Bob Everett asked him to remind everyone of the Community Bingo Night this coming Friday at the Senior Center, from 5:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. The group benefitting this week is the eighth grade graduating class at Kraxberger – it will help with their year-end party.

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

Councilor Huckaby:

She wanted to thank Detective Fitch for the phenomenal report regarding the Des Moines, Iowa incident/Gladstone incident. She also thanked Chief Schmerber. She hopes everyone takes the time to read the report – it is valuable information and is a great reminder to open up these discussions with your kids. She congratulated Chief Schmerber on rolling out the body cameras.

She said on February 5th there was an overdose at Tukwila Springs and Narcan had to be administered, along with CPR. The patient was transported by AMR. She asked where the Narcan came from – Chief Schmerber said it was on-site. This was a visitor to the facility. He has a meeting on the 22nd with staff to discuss the situation.

She said the free bike helmet program is excellent.

She is happy to see the radar data. She asked if the two snow days skewed the data – Chief Schmerber doesn't believe so.

She thanked Public Works for their monthly report and the photos.

She thanked the Senior Center and FOGNP for bingo in February. She said the food is phenomenal. She said the bingo nights are highly attended.

The Senior Center has issued a survey with one question - asking for suggestions for a new name for the Center that represents the multi-generational plans. She thanked Mindy Proski who made the pamphlets – they were beautiful.

Councilor Alexander:

He is glad to see the new police K-9 truck – they have helped Clackamas County Sheriff's Office, Sandy, and Wilsonville – so we are getting our money's worth out of the K-9. Chief Schmerber agreed.

Councilor Reichle:

She attended the Parks and Rec Board meeting last night. It was a very productive meeting – a lot of good stuff was discussed. They are looking at continuing the process of getting the grant for the paved trail project at the Nature Park. They talked about the process of updating/replacing garbage cans, picnic tables, and benches at the parks. They had further discussion regarding the Robin Hood Park improvements.

Councilor Roberts:

He agreed with Councilors Huckaby and Alexander regarding the Police Department's monthly report – great detective work by Detective Fitch, the body cameras, and the new K-9 truck. He hopes to see the new truck out on the road soon.

He met with the North Clackamas County Water Commission Director Wade Hawthorn, recently. He toured the facility as well. He is excited to assume his duties on the 23rd at their first meeting.

Councilor Garlington:

The Oak Lodge Library design presentation will be a Zoom meeting on Tuesday, March 21st at 5:30 – you can find the link on the Clackamas County website. She thanked Ms. Betz for pushing us forward as far as we are with our own library. The Clackamas County Library Board meeting is Thursday, March 16th at 5:30 – also on Zoom.

She, along with Ms. Betz and Councilor Alexander had a meeting with Clackamas Fire – the fire station remodel is still progressing and once the internal components are complete they will hold an open house for the public - hopefully in mid-May. They discussed the Clackamas enhanced levy measure, which will not effect Gladstone residents as they will not be voting on the levy – they have their own. They look forward to seeing Clackamas Fire at the Community Easter Egg Hunt, the Fourth of July barbeque at Max Patterson Park, and the Community Festival in August.

The Friends of Gladstone Nature Park Volunteer Saturday is March 25th from 9 – 12. Gloves, donuts, and smiling faces are provided – she encouraged everyone to come. The plant sale at the Nature Park will be on Sunday, April 22nd and it will include the robotics people, so it's a great time to clean out your garage and get rid of those electronics – bring them to be recycled.

She has emailed those that were interested in helping with the Tukwila Springs dinner – if you are interested, please reach out to her. The next dinner will be a learning event with Key Club members. There is another dinner in April. The Rotary Club will be helping with the dinner in June. The Gladstone School District spring vacation is March 27th – 31st. She reminded everyone to watch out for the kids.

Gladstone is holding the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8th at 11:00 A.M. – she encouraged people to come early for the pancake breakfast and to not be late because it goes quickly.

She encouraged everyone to donate to the Gladstone Food Bank – it's very easy. The Gladstone Pickleball Club recently presented them with a check for \$1,350 and donated 200 pounds of food. Every contribution is needed, so please consider donating.

Mayor Milch:

He said he participated in the Everybody Reads Day, which is Dr. Suess's birthday, at the elementary school. He read books about local governance to five different classes, from first graders to fifth graders and got a wonderful response. He announced the plans for improvements to the playground at Meldrum Bar Park and got a round of applause from the kids.

He has heard comments from a number of people about the importance of trees in our environment.

He discussed this with the Director of WES, Greg Geist, because their surface water management program has a lot to do with street trees and other trees that help absorb rain water and keep it from getting into stormwater systems. He hopes that Clackamas County and cities in this county will pick up on the tree planting program similar to Portland's "Friends of Trees" that helped people plant trees in their parkways. Trees can help calm traffic, create an inviting environment, etc.

He has been involved in the Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium – this year there is a lot going on with mayors trying to influence legislation across the state around the issue of tolling. He is meeting with several mayors from urban cities in Clackamas County tomorrow – they are hoping that elected officials can help sway how the legislature goes on that matter. He encouraged everyone to read the environmental assessment that ODOT produced on this topic and weigh in on how potentially harmful it could be for this community and several communities around us.

Mayor Milch asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

ADJOURN:

Councilor Huckaby made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilor Alexander. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Garlington – yes. Councilor Roberts – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Huckaby – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 P.M.

Approved by the Mayor this 11th day of April, 2023.

ATTEST:



Michael Milch, Mayor



Tami Bannick, City Recorder

